

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 are pending in this case. The present Amendment amends Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-13, 15, 16, and 18-24 without introducing any new matter.

The Office Action objected to Claims 2, 11, and 14-24. Claims 1-4, 12, 14, 15, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Weindorf et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,697,130, hereinafter "Weindorf"); Claims 5, 7, 9, 10, 16, 18, 20, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Weindorf; Claims 6 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Weindorf in view of Tsukamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,195,882, hereinafter "Tsukamoto"); and Claims 8, 11, 13, 19, 22, and 24 were rejected as unpatentable over Weindorf in view of Lee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,862,053US, hereinafter "Lee").

In response to the objection to Claims 11 and 22, Claims 11 and 22 are presently amended to address the noted informalities. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to Claims 11 and 22 be withdrawn.

In response to the objection to Claims 2 and 14-24, M.P.E.P. § 804(II)(A) notes that if there is an embodiment of an invention that falls within the scope of one claim, but not another, then identical subject matter is not defined by both claims and statutory double patenting would not exist. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 2 and 14-24, which recite a back-light device for shedding light on the back of a liquid-crystal panel, have a different scope than Claims 1 and 3-13, which recite a liquid crystal display comprising a liquid-crystal panel and a back-light device for shedding light on the back of the liquid-crystal panel. Thus it is respectfully requested that the objection to Claims 2 and 14-24 be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-13, 15, 16, and 18-24 are presently amended. Support for these amendments is found at least at page 11, line 6 to page 13, line 13 of the specification as originally filed, with reference to Figures 1-3, for example. Therefore, these amendments do not raise a question of new matter.

The rejection of Claims 1-4, 12, 14, 15, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Weindorf is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1 and 2 as presently amended recite, *inter alia*:

...a substantially rectangular light-guiding plate, the light-guiding plate including ...at least four side surfaces facing in a direction substantially perpendicular to a direction of a thickness of the light-guiding plate;

wherein the at least four side surfaces include ***an incident surface configured to allow light to enter and a first side surface opposite the incident surface...***

...a frame configured to house and hold the light-guiding plate and the flexible PCB,

wherein the frame includes ...erected walls which are erected at the periphery of the supporting wall;

wherein the erected walls include a first erected wall substantially perpendicular to the supporting wall, and a second erected wall substantially perpendicular to the supporting wall and located opposite the first erected wall;

...wherein ***the light-guiding plate is positioned in the frame such that the first side surface of the light-guiding plate contacts the second erected wall***; and

wherein the flexible PCB is positioned in the frame such that the erected parts contact the first erected wall of the frame and ***the flexible PCB biases at least one of the plurality of light sources against the incident surface of the light guiding plate.***

Weindorf fails to describe every element of Claims 1 and 2 as presently amended. As illustrated in Figure 3, Weindorf describes a AMLCD device 300 that includes a flexible circuit board 316 with top-light LEDs 322 and 324 mounted thereon.¹ The flexible circuit board 316 is folded to form two substantially 45 degree angles, such that LEDs 322 and 324 are perpendicular to the surface of a center region of the flexible circuit board 316.²

¹ See Weindorf, at column 5, lines 45-51.

² See Weindorf, at column 6, lines 15-20.

However, Weindorf fails to describe a light-guiding plate that includes an incident surface configured to allow light to enter and a first side surface opposite the incident surface, with the light-guiding plate positioned in a frame such that the first side surface of the light-guiding plate contacts a second erected wall of the frame, and a flexible PCB biases at least one of a plurality of light sources against the incident surface of the light guiding plate. To the contrary, Figure 3 of Weindorf illustrates opposing surfaces of a light pipe 310 facing LEDs. Specifically, LED 322 contacts a left surface of a light pipe 310 and LED 324 contacts a right (opposite) surface of the light pipe 310. Thus, Weindorf fails to describe a light-guiding plate positioned in a frame such that a first side surface of the light-guiding plate contacts a second erected wall and a flexible PCB biases at least one of a plurality of light sources against an incident surface of the light guiding plate. Accordingly, as Weindorf does not describe every feature recited in Claims 1 and 2 as presently amended, Claims 1 and 2 are not anticipated by Weindorf and patentably define over the cited art. Therefore, the rejection of Claim 1 and 2, and Claims 3, 4, 12, 14, 15, and 23 dependent therefrom, is overcome, and reconsideration of the rejection based on Weindorf is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of dependent Claims 5, 7, 9, 10, 16, 18, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Weindorf, as discussed above Weindorf fails to describe every feature of Claims 1 and 2 as presently claimed. Thus, is respectfully submitted that dependent Claims 5, 7, 9, 10, 16, 18, 20, and 21 patentably define over Weindorf for at least the same reasons as independent Claims 1 and 2 from which they depend. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of dependent Claims 5, 7, 9, 10, 16, 18, 20, and 21 be withdrawn.

With respect to the rejection of dependent Claims 6 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Weindorf in view of Tsukamoto, Tsukamoto does not cure the

deficiencies discussed above regarding Weindorf. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of dependent Claims 6 and 17 be withdrawn.

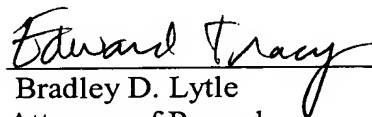
With respect to the rejection of dependent Claims 8, 11, 13, 19, 22, and 24 as unpatentable over Weindorf in view of Lee, Lee does not cure the deficiencies discussed above regarding Weindorf. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of dependent Claims 8, 11, 13, 19, 22, and 24 be withdrawn.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-24 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

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